

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 CU-04

OMB-01 OPR-02 SY-10 NEA-10 NIC-01 DRC-01 /165 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5460

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJECT: NATIONAL UNIVERSITY INTERVENTION

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING AN EXTRAORDINARY NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (COSENA) MEETING, THE PRESIDENT DECREED INTERVENTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE REPUBLIC (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY) AT 2130 ON OCTOBER 28. ALL UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES, EXCEPT MEDICAL CARE, HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED AND THE UNIVERSITY PLACED UNDER CONTROL OF MINISTER OF EDUCATION NARANCIO.

2. GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOLLOWED A WEEKEND OF FAST-MOVING EVENTS WHICH BEGAN THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 27 WITH A BOMB EXPLOSION WHICH LEFT ONE DEAD IN EN-

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GINEERING SCHOOL. THE VICTIM WAS A STUDENT WHO WAS PREPARING

BOMB WHICH WENT OFF IN HIS HANDS. WHEN AUTHORITIES WENT IN TO INVESTIGATE THEY ALSO FOUND ARMS AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF COMMUNIST AND EXTREME LEFTIST PROPAGANDA. A FEW HOURS LATER THE MILITARY OCCUPIED AND SEARCHED ALL OTHER UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS, FINDING WEAPONS, MATERIAL FOR BOMB AND MOLOTOV COCKTAIL FABRICATION IN SEVERAL FACULTIES AND PROPAGANDA AND COMMUNIST PUBLICATIONS IN ALL.

3. DAO SOURCES ON EVENING OCTOBER 27 REPORTED THAT MILITARY WENT INTO UNIVERSITY TO SEE IF OTHER BUILDINGS HAD BOMB-PRODUCING FACILITIES AND WEAPONS AS DID ENGINEERING. THEIR ORDERS WERE FOR TEMPORARY OCCUPATION. HOWEVER, SEARCHERS TURNED UP SO MUCH MATERIAL THAT SUNDAY MEETING OF COSENA WAS CALLED AND INTERVENTION DECREED. SOME 150 PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY, INCLUDING RECTOR AND MOST OF DEANS, NOW UNDER ARREST.

3. COMMENT: WITH INTERVENTION HAVING LONG BEEN SOUGHT BY NARANCION AND OTHER HARD-LINERS, THE MOVE WAS A SURPRISE ONLY IN TIMING. IT CLEARLY PRECIPITATED BY BOMB INCIDENT AND SUBSEQUENT DISCOVERY OF PROPAGANDA AND BELICOSE MATERIAL. GOVERNMENT OBVIOUSLY NOT COMPLETELY SURPRISED BY FINDINGS BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS GREAT RESENTMENT THAT WEAPONS CACHED AND THAT BOMB LABS OPERATING RATHER OPENLY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS WITH APPARENT APPROVAL OR AT LEAST ACCEPTANCE ON PART OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY.

4. THERE IS NO DOUBT AS TO LEGITIMACY OF FINDINGS AS MEDIA PEOPLE ENTERED UNIVERSITY ON HEELS OF TROOPS AND TELECASTS WERE ALREADY SHOWING WEAPONS, PROPAGANDA, ETC., SAME EVENING. SIRACUSA

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